



## 24 Boxes: Unpacking the Cochrane Papua New Guinea Collection

18 May - 18 September 2016



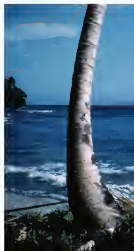
UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

# Showcasing the experiences of Percy and Renata Cochrane during their travels among the people of Central Papua New Guinea.

The Cochrane collection was one of the first Archival collections recommended for digitisation at the University of Wollongong Library.

The unique material in this collection illustrates the traditional customs and ceremonies of the Papua New Guinea people. Unlocking this collection for digitisation commenced in late 2009 with the digitised items not only preserved, but made freely available through UOW Digital Archives.

To access the online exhibition and digital archive:  
[go.uow.edu.au/24boxes](http://go.uow.edu.au/24boxes)



# UOW Library Exhibition Event

Percy Cochrane moved to Papua New Guinea in 1949 to work as Senior Broadcasts Officer for the Territory Administration under the Australian Government. He was accompanied by his wife Benata Cochrane and two small children and Benata was later employed by the Administration as a Publications Officer. From 1949-66 the Cochranes' public occupations and private interests converged in their efforts to photograph, sound record and document facets of Papua New Guinea cultural life, the work of the Administration and the role of Catholic missions.

The Cochrane Collection was assembled by Benata Cochrane and her daughter Susan Cochrane during 1981-82 and donated to the University of Wollongong Archives in 1985. The Exhibition provides fascinating insights into a significant period in Papua New Guinea history with items related to the development of local education, the work of Catholic missions and churches, the growth of a PNG government on the path to Independence, and the stories, traditional music, and regional customs and ceremonies of its people.



# Exhibition Launch

Friday 20 May 2016, 1pm  
UOW Library Panizzi Room

**Emeritus Professor  
Ken McKinnon AO**  
**UOW Vice-Chancellor 1981 - 1994**

*A pioneering Director of Education in PNG from 1966-73, Professor McKinnon is one of Australia's most senior public figures with experience at the highest levels in government, universities, and private industry.*



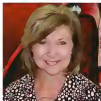
**Susan Cochrane**  
**Researcher, curator and writer**

*The daughter of Percy and Renata Cochrane, Susan returned to Papua New Guinea between 1984 and 2012 to develop her research interests and curatorial expertise in Pacific and Aboriginal art.*



**Margie Jantti**  
**Director, Library Services**

*Margie provides leadership and direction for library services spanning six onshore campus locations and guidance for offshore library partnerships in the UAE and Asia.*



# The Cochranes

Percy and Renata Cochrane lived in Papua New Guinea during the period 1949-1966. The collection comprises sound recordings, black and white photographs, colour slides, manuscripts, correspondence and publications.

Percival "Percy" Cochrane was born in Perth, Western Australia in 1907. He was an educationalist, specialising in education by radio and organized the first School of the Air in South Australia. He joined the Administration of Papua New Guinea in 1949 as Senior Broadcasts Officer. He became Chief of Division (Broadcasts), setting up and administering six widely scattered radio stations.

Renata Cochrane, born in London in 1919, was the daughter of Captain Archibald Clement Campbell- Rogers and Baroness Claudia Teresa Domenica Ajuti di Santa Papa. After marrying Percy Cochrane in 1947 in Adelaide she went with him and their children to Papua New Guinea. Renata was employed as a Publication Officer in the Department of Information and was also employed in the Department's Film Unit as a scriptwriter and researcher.

The primary audience for the radio programs, films and publications produced by the Cochranes were the people of Papua New Guinea. The programs were devised by the Territory Administration to assist in its objective of drawing the diverse tribes closer together in an emerging Nation.

The Cochrane Papua New Guinea Collection was assembled by Renata Cochrane and her daughter Susan Cochrane during 1981-1982. It was given to the University of Wollongong Archives in 1985 and subsequently housed in 24 archive boxes.



Percy Cochrane. Recording session at Kariakoba, Edeby/TGS, UoW Archives.



Renata Cochrane with Louise Wemambichela, Edeby/TGS, UoW Archives.

# Catholic Missions

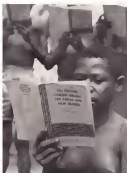
Catholic missionaries arrived in Papua New Guinea in 1885 when the Order of the Sacred Heart established a mission on Yule Island. Benata Cochrane was a devout Catholic who regularly travelled to remote missions in PNG and wrote for the International Catholic Press. A substantial amount of this material is held in the collection including manuscripts, scrapbooks, articles and photographs.

Missions and missionaries had an enormous impact on the region, particularly in relation to religious practices, education and the introduction of English language. Among the many stories to come from missionary work in PNG is that of A P Allan Natachoe, the first PNG poet in print.

Allan was a Mekoan man who was born Awaisa Pinongo in 1924. His mother died in 1930 and he was placed in the Inawain Catholic Mission School on Yule Island where he was taught by nuns and became known as Allan Natachoe.

Allan was introduced to Percy Cochrane in 1950 and was very soon a member of the Broadcast staff. He spoke 6 languages and whilst notionally employed as a translator, his most important work was in capturing the legends and culture of the Mekoan people in written form and translating these into English. Allan's work informed the writing and broadcast recordings of both Percy and Benata.

Allan wrote and published his own literary works, beginning with his first publication in Oceania in 1951. As Percy observed, Allan was "... an instinctive poet... he had an extraordinary gift for fitting form and metre to suit the subject." In later life, Allan undertook a Creative Writing course at the University of Papua New Guinea in 1973 - returning there in the early 1980s as Poet in Residence.



Papuan children learning English, D1164/12/670, UoW Archives.



Papuan child, D1164/12/150, UoW Archives.

# UOW Connections

The University of Wollongong association with the Papua New Guinea higher education sector began in the 1980s under the then UOW Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon.

McKinnon established the UOW Master of Arts (International Relations) program which took its first enrolments in 1989. It was formed in response to a request from the Papua New Guinea Department of Foreign Affairs to train people to work in international affairs. Professor Ted Wolfers, then head of the UOW Department of History and Politics, was appointed course co-ordinator. Professor Wolfers had been a permanent consultant to the Papua New Guinea Independence Planning Committee responsible for the process of developing a constitution from 1972-1974.

In 1989 the University of Wollongong conferred Honorary Doctor of Letters

degrees upon former Prime Ministers of Australia Sir John Gorton and Mr Gough Whitlam, and the first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mr Michael Somare. All three shared a passion for education; John Gorton was Minister for Education from 1963-1968; In 1974 Prime Minister Gough Whitlam made universities accessible to all students by abolishing university fees; and in 1934, Michael Somare trained as a teacher at the Sogeri Education Centre and taught for the next five years in schools around the Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

On 28 May 1991, the University of Wollongong held a special graduation ceremony at Parliament House, Port Moresby, for Papua New Guinea public servants and mid-career diplomats who had satisfied requirements for the University's Master of Arts. Fittingly, UOW Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon presided over the ceremony.



From left to right: Justice Robert Marsden Hope AC, CMG, QC, Sir Michael Thomas Somare GCL, GCMG, CH, CM, SSI, KStJ, PC, MP, The Hon Edward Gough Whitlam AC, QC, Hon Sir John Gorton GCMG, AC, CH, and Emeritus Professor Ken McKinnon AO. Photograph taken 1989 December Graduation Honorary Awards, UOW UOW Archives



A man and his didgeridoos from Western Highlands playing a pair of dids



# Exhibition Events

## Entering the Atomic Age: Early literature in Papua New Guinea

Friday 27 May 12.30pm

UOW Library Panizzi Room

UOW Academic staff, Dr Paul Sharrod and Dr Shayne Kearney, discuss the educational agenda accompanying decolonisation of Papua New Guinea, specifically the spreading of literacy and creative writing. This presentation will refer to materials held at the university in the Cochrane Papua New Guinea Collection, and elaborate on connections to the first published poet, Alan Natache and the first novelist, Vincent Eri.

## Reflections on the Constitutional Development of Papua New Guinea

Friday 15 September 12.30pm

UOW Library Panizzi Room

Emeritus Professor Edward (Ted) Wolfers worked as a permanent consultant to the pre independence Constitutional Planning Committee (CPC) who consulted widely in Papua New Guinea to develop recommendations for the 1975 national constitution. In this talk Professor Wolfers will reflect on this process which led to the development in one of the oldest unbroken constitutional democracies in the world.

# D160 Cochrane Papua New Guinea collection

The collection is organised into a series of 21 format and topic areas, held in 24 boxes at UOW Archives.

## Series List

1. Central Topics
2. Scripts and Articles
3. Colour Slide Transparencies
4. Photographic Prints
5. Music and Radio Broadcast Recordings
6. Music Files
7. Radio Talks
8. District Files
9. Catholic Missions Manuscripts
10. Catholic Missions Scrapbook
11. Catholic Missions Periodicals
12. Catholic Missions Journal Articles
13. Catholic Missions Photographs
14. Film Scripts
15. Laursbada Manuscript
16. "What do you think?" Articles
17. Journalism Correspondence
18. Oral Histories
19. Publications
20. Government Publications and Reports
21. Films

# UOW Archives Digital collections highlights

## William George Agate Collection

The records in this collection comprise both personal and official correspondence and other material including letters, postcards and artifacts relating to William Agate's military service during World War I. Private Agate, No 5027, 1st Battalion A.I.F. died of wounds suffered during a German gas attack at Ypres in Belgium on 6 November 1917.



## Theatre South Collection

A Regional Theatre Company based in Wollongong. It was formed in 1980 by its Artistic Director, Des Davis and his wife Faye Montgomery, under the aegis of the University of Wollongong. The digitised aspect of this collection comprises posters and playbills.



## Stuart Piggin Collection

The collection comprises research files, recorded interviews and photographs compiled by Dr Piggin in association with his writing of the books *Faith of Steel* (1984) - a history of churches of various denominations within the Illawarra - and *The Mount Kembla Disaster* (1992), co-written with Dr Henry Lee.



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for more information



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Cover image:  
DU60/08/496 Male dancer with elaborate headdress.  
Colour slides 496-503, Mekro people, Papua New Guinea